



UNCLASSIFIED



## House Armed Services Committee

### DAILY SUMMARY – OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Current as of 12:00 p.m. EST March 31, 2003

#### Significant Events in Last 24 Hours

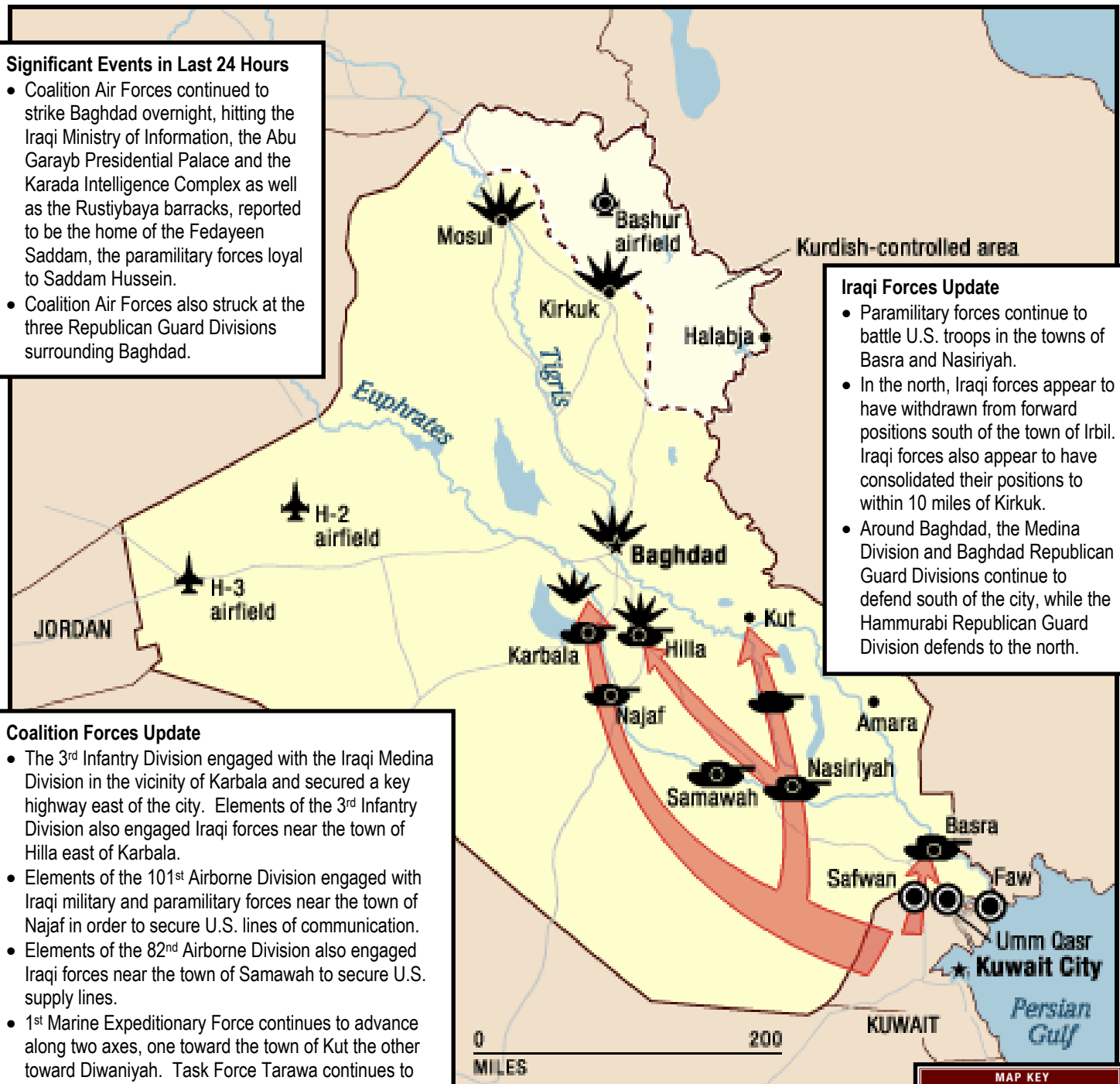
- Coalition Air Forces continued to strike Baghdad overnight, hitting the Iraqi Ministry of Information, the Abu Garayb Presidential Palace and the Karada Intelligence Complex as well as the Rustiybaya barracks, reported to be the home of the Fedayeen Saddam, the paramilitary forces loyal to Saddam Hussein.
- Coalition Air Forces also struck at the three Republican Guard Divisions surrounding Baghdad.

#### Iraqi Forces Update

- Paramilitary forces continue to battle U.S. troops in the towns of Basra and Nasiriyah.
- In the north, Iraqi forces appear to have withdrawn from forward positions south of the town of Irbil. Iraqi forces also appear to have consolidated their positions to within 10 miles of Kirkuk.
- Around Baghdad, the Medina Division and Baghdad Republican Guard Divisions continue to defend south of the city, while the Hammurabi Republican Guard Division defends to the north.

#### Coalition Forces Update

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division engaged with the Iraqi Medina Division in the vicinity of Karbala and secured a key highway east of the city. Elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division also engaged Iraqi forces near the town of Hilla east of Karbala.
- Elements of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division engaged with Iraqi military and paramilitary forces near the town of Najaf in order to secure U.S. lines of communication.
- Elements of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division also engaged Iraqi forces near the town of Samawah to secure U.S. supply lines.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force continues to advance along two axes, one toward the town of Kut the other toward Diwaniyah. Task Force Tarawa continues to battle paramilitary forces for the town of Nasiriyah.
- In the north, the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade at the Bashur airfield continues to be reinforced by air with additional personnel and equipment.
- British forces near Basra continue to fight Iraqi paramilitary forces, and reported that its forces are holding five senior Iraqi officers.



Sources: Unclassified Department of Defense Sources and Press Reports; map from *The Washington Post*.